## **AMENDMENT**

(under Article 34)
(Translation)

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

- 1 Identification of the International Application PCT/JP03/07521
- 2 Applicant

Name: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.

Address: 1006, Oaza-Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka,

571-8501 JAPAN

Country of nationality: Japan Country of residence: Japan

3 Agent

Name: (7243) Patent Attorney, ISHII Kazuo (seal)

Address: Kitahama-Yamamoto Building, 3-6,

Kitahama 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi,

Osaka 541-0041 Japan

- 4 Item to be Amended Claims
- 5 Subject Matter of Amendment

As per the attached sheets, where

- (1) claim 3 is incorporated into claim 1 at page 22 of CLAIMS, and claim 3 is deleted.
- 6 List of Attached Documents
  - (1) Pages 22 and 23 of CLAIMS

## CLAIMS

(Amended) A valve-regulated lead-acid battery
 comprising: an electrode plate group; and

an electrolyte impregnated into and retained by said electrode plate group,

said electrode plate group comprising:

positive electrode plates that each include a positive electrode current collector comprising a Sn-containing lead alloy, and a positive electrode active material retained by said positive electrode current collector:

negative electrode plates that each include a negative electrode current collector comprising a lead alloy, and a negative electrode active material retained by said negative electrode current collector; and

separators,

wherein Sn content in said positive electrode current collector is 1.1 to 3.0 % by mass, and pore volume per unit mass of said negative electrode active material is 0.115 to 0.150  $\,\mathrm{cm}^3/\mathrm{g}$ , and

part of said electrolyte is a free electrolyte that is free from said electrode plate group, and said free electrolyte is in contact with said separators.

2. The valve-regulated lead-acid battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein the Sn content in said positive electrode current collector is 1.6 to 2.5 % by mass.

3. (Deleted)